

April 29, 1975

LB 344

SPEAKER BURBACH: LB344 Senator Kremer.

CLERK: Read LB344.

SPEAKER BURBACH: Are those committee amendments or Senator Lewis amendments?

CLERK: Senator Frank Lewis' Education Committee.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman the committee amendments happen to be the bill. Obviously they are very voluminous and they address the issue, but the issue is very clear as to the intent of the Education Committee with the amendments. Basically the intention is to provide for local control of the Community Technical Schools as existed before this court decision. The process now calls for at least two major things. The first one is that the local boards will still control the Community Technical School. LB216 is coming along soon and as soon as it gets here I would ask that we put it because it provides the state dollar level. 344 provides that the local community college board may levy up to 2 mils for operation. Up to 1 mil for capital out lay, for five years. The maximum of the two can not exceed 2 1/2 mils. It is anticipated that too compliment this program that there would eleven million dollars of state money to provide the complete project for community technical schools. There are other technical amendments involved in the bill, primarily relating to the commission that would advise the bill, its make-up is disguised here in for you. The real thrust of the bill is to see that local communities, local areas retain control of their community technical schools. This precedent and this particular approach is not new to Nebraska. Many of these schools grew out of Junior Colleges, North Platte, McCook, Scottsbluff, Columbus, I believe and this is an attempt to allow those programs to be determined by those local boards for community college activities. The method that we have used and the Attorney General has so advised me in an opinion that all of you have read, because it appeared in the Journal. In his judgment LB344 would withstand the time before the courts. It is sound. So, I would ask that if you believe that this is a method of finance, and this is a method of control, for community technical schools that you adopt the committee amendments and subsequently adopt the bill. I ask that the committee amendments be adopted.

SENATOR BURBACH: Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to the committee amendments because the committee amendments are the bill. I would like to point out first of all, I would like to take you back with me, at least those of you who have been here as long as I have. There was a time when we had only one vocational school in the state of Nebraska. There was a consistant effort to establish more schools like this. But they always failed in that we did nothing but quarrel over where the next school would be established. Then, the idea of...or the area concept was brought before this legislative body and as a result